GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
BORDER DISPUTE WITH CHINA
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Ambassador to India has expressed that strong ties with India are necessary;

(b) if so, the extent to which both China and India have resolved the border dispute;

(c) whether both countries are working together to improve the relations and settle all disputes peacefully;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievements made so far in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)
(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE WITH REFERENCE TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUE NO.190 FOR ANSWER ON MARCH 8, 2000

The Prime Minister has stated that we seek friendly, co-operative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China.In line with this policy, our relations with China have diversified and expanded. Exchanges at the governmental, parliamentary, non-governmental, people-to-people and other levels are taking place.
As regards the boundary question, India and China are committed to working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question (JWG) and its sub-group, the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials (EG). Eleven meetings of JWG and seven meetings of EG have been held so far. The Agreements on Maintenance of Border Peace and Tranquillity, signed in 1993, and on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, signed in November 1996, contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.
During my visit to China on June 14-15, 1999 and my subsequent meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister during the ASEAN Regional Forum - Post-Ministerial Conference Meeting in Singapore on July 25, 1999, I had exchanged views with my Chinese counterpart on various issues in our bilateral relations as also on regional and international issues of mutual interest. We agreed on promoting CBMs, having a security dialogue, expanding economic and trade relations and jointly celebrating the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (April 1, 2000).
Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran visited China and co-chaired the Sixth Meeting of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, and Science and Technology in Beijing on February 21-22, 2000. During the meeting the two sides agreed on measures to enhance bilateral trade. In 1999, the trade was US$ 1.987 billion, an increase of 3.4% over 1998.
The President stated in his Address to Parliament on 23rd February 2000 that he would undertake a State visit to China in May this year.
We seek a relationship in which both sides are responsive to each other`s concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.